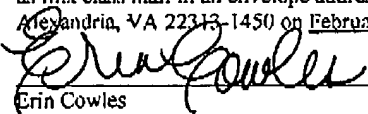


CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

Ref No. 12439-0050

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO at (571) 273-8300 or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 8, 2006.


Erin Cowles

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

FEB - 8 2006**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/810,871 Confirmation No. 7472
Applicant : Eldridge et al.
Filed : March 16, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2833
Examiner : Alexander Gilman

Docket No. : P70-US

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

In response to the most recent Office Action of February 3, 2005 in the above identified application, Applicants mailed a timely Notice of Appeal with a certificate of mailing dated August 3, 2005, which was received by the US Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") on August 8, 2005. The PTO nevertheless inadvertently issued a Notice of Abandonment dated August 10, 2005, and Applicants filed a Request For Reconsideration Of Holding Of Abandonment dated October 7, 2005. Although still awaiting a decision on the Request For Reconsideration of Holding Of Abandonment, Applicants file this Amendment along with a Request For Continued Examination in anticipation that the Request For Reconsideration Of Holding Of Abandonment will be granted and the abandoned status of the application will be withdrawn due to the timely filed Notice of Appeal. Accordingly, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the list of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

Page 1 of 15

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Feb. 8.2006 4:29PM KIRTON & MCCONKIE

No.6452 P.9

Appl. No. 09/810,871
Amdt. dated February 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2005